

Serial No. 09/026,080
Atty. Dkt. No. MIO 0020



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Please amend claim 3, in the first line thereof, by changing "2" to --1--.

Please amend claim 4, in the first line thereof, by changing "2" to --1--.

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 16-28 in the first Office Action as well as the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-6, 11, 13, 14, and 72.

In the first Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-10, 12, and 15 under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Hilton. Hilton relates to a ball grid array package emulator which is designed to make temporary electrical connections between a ball grid array package and a printed circuit board. The Examiner referenced Fig. 2 and intermediate layer 34 of Hilton, along with the elastomeric material 36 which filled holes in layer 34.

Initially, intermediate layer 34 of Hilton is described by the patentee as being fabricated of a dielectric material. Specific dielectric materials described by Hilton include fiberglass, plastic, or resin (see, col. 2, lines 32-36; see also, the description of base 53 in Fig. 4 at col. 3, lines 53-55). None of those materials are stated by Hilton to be elastomeric, whereas claim 1 specifically recites that the elastic member is comprised of an elastomeric material. Thus, Hilton does not anticipate the rejected claims.

Further, applicants have now amended claim 1 to recite the subject matter of original dependent claim 2 (which has been canceled). Claim 2 was indicated by the Examiner in the first Office Action as containing allowable subject matter. For this additional reason, applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, as well as claims 3-6 and 9-15 which depend directly or indirectly therefrom are patentable over Hilton.

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For all of these reasons, applicants submit that all of the remaining claims as amended are patentable and that the application is presently in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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